Sunwar language

Sunwar, **Sunuwar**, or **Kõinch** (कोँइच; *kõich*; other spellings are Koinch and Koincha), is a Kiranti language spoken in Nepal and India by the Sunwar people. It was first comprehensively attested by the Himalayan Languages Project. It is also known as Kõits Lo (कोँइच लो ; *kõica lo*), Kiranti-Kõits (किराँती-कोँइच ; *kirā̃tī-kõich*), Mukhiya (मुखिया ; *mukhiyā*).[3][4]

Sunwar	
सुनुवार/कोइचा	
Region	Nepal
Native speakers	38,000 (2011)[1]
Language family	Sino-Tibetan
	▪ Mahakiranti ?
	▪ Kiranti
	▪ Western Kiranti
	▪ Northwestern Kiranti
	▪ **Sunwar**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	suz
Glottolog	sunw1242 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/sunw1242)[2]

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Geographical distribution

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Sunwar greeting

Sunwar is spoken in the following locations of Nepal (*Ethnologue*).

- Eastern hills of Dolakha District and Ramechhap District, Bagmati Pradesh
- Northwestern Okhaldhunga District, Province No. 1

Vocabulary

Seu+wa+la (Sewala)

Sunwar	English
Namsewal	Hello / Good Bye
Sew	(Respect) / (Greeting) / I bow to you
Maahr	What
Dohpachaa	How to
Dohshow	How much
Dohmoh	How big
Go	I
Gopuki	We are
Ge	You (informal)
Gepukhi	You are (informal)
Goi	we (formal)
GoiPuki	we are (formal)
Daarshow	Beautiful
Rimso	Good
MaDarshow	Ugly

Language Structure

In linguistic typology, a **subject+object+verb** (**SOV**) language is one in which the subject, object, and verb of a sentence always or usually appear in that order. If English were SOV, "Sam oranges ate" would be an ordinary sentence, as opposed to the actual Standard English "Sam ate oranges". (A Grammar of Sunwar) [5]

Language	S	O	V
Sunwar	Go	Khamay	Jainu
English	I	Rice	Eat

Sunwar people called "Khangsa" sign language with voice and direct action, for foreign people who don't understand a sunuwar language.

Area

Sunwar language is spoken in villages in Dolakha, Ramechhap and Okhaldhunga, about 120 kilometers east of Kathmandu.[4]

Writing systems

Though Sunwar is most commonly written with the Devanagari script, a native writing system, Jenticha, has seen limited use since the 1940s. Invented by Krishna Bahadur Jenticha in 1942, the Jenticha script (Also called *jẽtica brese* or *kõica brese*) was initially a pure alphabet, but has since developed alphasyllabic characteristics. It has seen use in newspapers, poetry anthologies, academic works, and Sunwar-language translations of the proceedings of the Sikkim legislative assembly. [6]

Numerals and alphabet (Devanagari)

Numerals

1 *ichi/kaa*   2 *ni/nishi*   3 *sa/saam* 4 *le*   5   *nga*

6 *ruku/roku* 7 *chani*   8 *sasi*   9 *van* 10 *gau*

Vowels

अ *a* आ *ā* इ *i* ई *ī* उ *u* ऊ *ū*

ए *e* ऐ *ai* ओ *o* औ *au* ऑ *ang* ओ *aha*

Consonants

क *ka*	ख *kha*	ग *ga*	घ *gha*	ङ *ṅga*	च *cha*	छ *chha*	ज *ja*	झ *jha*
ञ *ña*	ट *ṭa*	ठ *ṭha*	ड *ḍa*	ढ *ḍha*	ण *ṇa*	त *ta*	थ *tha*	द *da*
ध *dha*	न *na*	प *pa*	फ *pha*	ब *ba*	भ *bha*	म *ma*	य *ya*	र *ra*
ल *la*	व *wa*	श *śha*	ष *ṣra*	स *sa*	ह *ha*	व्ह *hha*		

References

1. Sunwar (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/suz/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Sunwar" (http://glotto log.org/resource/languoid/id/sunw1242). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Ager, Simon. "Jenticha alphabet, and the Sunuwar language" (http://www.omniglot.com/writing/ jenticha.htm). Omniglot. Retrieved 25 August 2014.
4. Borchers, Dörte (2008). *A grammar of Sunwar: descriptive grammar, paradigms, texts and glossary* ([Online-Ausg.]. ed.). Leiden: Brill. pp. 1–2. ISBN 9789004167094.
5. "A Grammar of Sunwar" (https://books.google.com/books?id=AYA7CpILphoC). Dörte Borchers. Retrieved 27 August 2018.
6. Pandey, Anshuman (31 May 2011). "Proposal to Encode the Jenticha Script in ISO/IEC 10646" (http://std.dkuug.dk/jtc1/sc2/wg2/docs/n4028.pdf) (PDF). Retrieved 18 December 2019.

External links

- Sunwar language website (http://www.sunuwar.org)

This page was last edited on 1 July 2020, at 04:37 (UTC).